habitations in the rural areas with a population of more than 500 persons;

(b) the details of schemes under PMGSY pertaining to AP, that are still under consideration of his Ministry; and

(c) since when these schemes are pending and the reasons for their pendency?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) The State Government has reported that, as on January, 2005, all the unconnected habitations having population more than 500 have been connected with all-weather road, except 25 habitations located in Lankas which are not feasible to be connected at present. Notwithstanding this, the Ministry of Rural Development has approved 884 road works convering a length of 4185.78 kilometers at an estimated cost of Rs. 671.28 crore in the State under PMGSY since January, 2004. The Ministry has also approved construction of missing links of 416 road works of Phase I at an estimated cost of Rs. 161.61 crore.

(b) and (c) The State Government has, in August, 2006, has forwarded a detailed proposal for construction of 22 road works in Left Wing Extremist affected areas at an estimated cost of Rs. 29.42 crore. The State Government has been advised to review the proposals and revise them by removing certain deficiencies with respect to the Core Network, design and estimates to enable the Ministry to consider them for approval.

Water conservation by Artificial Glacier Technique

†2852. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Shri Chewang Narphle has done a commendable job for water conservation, by way of an artificial Glacier Technique for the Leh-Laddakh region;

(b) whether Government propose to make use of this technique for Watershed Development Programme;

(c) whether possibilities for making use of this technique in other areas, experiencing snow-falls as well have been explored; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) what steps Government have taken to take such constructive and useful techniques to the grass roots, for the benefit of common men?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir. Shri Chewang Narphle has reportedly done good work in some villages of Leh-Laddakh region for harvesting glacial melt water during early spring when there is acute shortage of water.

(b) to (d) The Desert Development Programme (DDP) administered by the Ministry of Rural Development, is being implemented in 235 Blocks of 40 Districts across 7 States. The programme aims at desertification control in the hot desert and cold desert areas of these Districts/States. While the States of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka and Rajasthan have hot desert areas, the States of Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir (in Leh-Laddakh) have cold desert areas. Since the geoclimatic conditions of the hot desert area are entirely different from the cold desert areas, the techniques introduced by Shri Chewang Narphle in cold desert areas of Leh-Laddakh may not be replicable in hot desert areas. However, these techniques may be useful in the cold desert districts of Himachal Pradesh i.e. Lahaul Spiti and Kinnaur covered under DDP. In view of this, the State Rural Development Department of Himachal Pradesh has been advised by the Ministry to acquire these techniques and assess their efficacy for replication in Lahaul Spiti and Kinnaur under DDP.

BPL Survey, 2002

2853. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Maharashtra Government had requested for re-consideration the change of methodology of Below Poverty Line (BPL) survey, 2002;

(b) if so, Government's response thereto; and

(c) what are the details of methodolody of Below Poverty Line Survey andwhether Government are considering to revive this, after consideration of various State Government's request, particularly Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.